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Transmitted via Email

June 24, 2008

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-8-12

**SUBJECT: LTP-CRP-CRITICAL FEED USE – HAYING AND GRAZING PLAN  
DOCUMENTS**

Purpose. To distribute planning templates that can be used to revise existing CRP plans for haying and grazing activities approved under the Critical Feed Use provisions.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2008.

Attached to this bulletin are planning templates which can be used to both document producer actions and serve as a revision of existing CRP plans for the approved activities with the Critical Feed Use provisions. Planning templates distributed with this bulletin include a statewide template for haying activities and two separate grazing templates, one for use on acres North of I-94 and another for acres South of I-94.

District Conservationists have the authority to determine the extent of assistance needed to adequately address individual requests. In most cases on-site assistance will not be needed to provide assistance with Critical Feed Use - haying activities. On-site assistance with grazing activities may be needed to evaluate and assess the type of vegetation on the site, determine stocking recommendations, and develop options for fencing and watering.

If switchgrass is the predominant warm season species the site will not be suitable for grazing by horses or sheep and if too mature by August 2, the first day that livestock can be turned onto the pasture, may be rejected by cattle. Forcing the cattle to graze on a predominantly mature switchgrass stand has resulted in mouth abscesses.

**Clarification on Planning Guidance**

Acres within 120 feet of a stream or permanent water are ineligible to be hayed or grazed. For purposes of the Critical Feed Use provisions streams are defined as the blue-lined perennial streams on USGS maps and permanent water bodies defined as lakes and ponds.

Field staff providing assistance on Critical Feed Use will complete and have producers sign a copy of one of the planning templates. Attached to the template there must be a map which indicates:

- The location of all ineligible acres,
- The location and an estimate of the acres to be hayed and those to be left un-hayed in each field, and
- The location and an estimate of the acres to be grazed.



To facilitate grazing use District Conservationists have the flexibility to allow limited access to perennial streams and permanent water bodies that also serve as a water source for livestock. Any designated areas allowing limited livestock access for water use, within the 120-foot set-back, will be clearly identified on a map and discussed with producers. Limited livestock access to receiving waters will be done on a case-by-case basis; open, unlimited access is not acceptable.

Direct your questions on these CRP conservation plan revision templates and information in this bulletin to your Area Resource Conservationist.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

Attachments

DIST: AO  
FO  
ARC  
Greg Anderson, FSA, St. Paul, MN